

The City was Divided

Acts 14:1-13

Acts 14:1 Church builders: Paul and Barnabas. *Iconium*: capital city of region called Lycaonia.

The commission to go to the Gentiles doesn't preclude our commission to the Jews.

... and so spake: preached, uttered words. Verbalized the message.

Greeks: Proselyte Greeks, Greek speaking Gentiles.

Acts 14:2 Unbelieving Jews: rejected Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Didn't believe Jesus Christ was Messiah Disobedient unbelief.

Stirred up: Incited to action. *...made their minds evil affected*Poisoned minds.

The brethren: Christians. Nothing as volatile as religious hatred.

Acts 14:3 Speaking boldly: blunt and frank ...confident in spirit and demeanor. 1 Th 2:2; Eph 6:19-20 *Which gave testimony*.... Witness, record, documentation. proof

Unto the word of his grace: God proved word of His grace ... *granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands*. by granting signs and wonders to be done by the hands of Paul and Barnabas. **Long**: Sufficient, great amount; enough.

Pressure made them better!

Acts 14:4 Divided: Into parties. Schism. **Jews**: unbelieving Jews **Apostles**: Paul and Barnabas. Jude 4,8 Truth divides Mat 12:30; Luke 12:51-53

Wiersbe: ... *Jesus does give peace to those who trust Him (Rom. 5:1), but often their confession of faith becomes a declaration of war among their family and friends. Jesus is a cause of division (see John 7:12, 43; 9:16; 10:19). But even if there is not "peace on earth," there is "peace in heaven" (Luke 19:38) because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.*

Whenever truth is preached it forces people to make a decision. Micah 7:6 John 7:12

People divided in opinion of Christ:

1. Who He is — His Person John 7:43
2. What He did — His Power John 9:16
3. Why He did it.-- His Passion (Ryrie) John 10:19

Acts 14:5 Assault: violent impulse,. Greek--immediate or impetuous explosion *both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers*, Unbelieving Gentiles, Jews and political and religious leaders in the community. *to use them despitefully*, to exercise violence, to abuse them. To cause embarrassment and insult. To bring contempt upon them. To injure them. *and to stone them*, Put to death by stoning

Acts 14:6 They were ware of it, Informed of excitement and danger. *and fled* ... Fleeing more an act of discernment and prudence than cowardice. Mat 10:23

Lystra a little community. ...hometown of Timothy (16:1-2). Roman city Not many Jews. No mention of synagogue *and unto the region that lieth round about.* Region of Lycaonia

Acts 14:7 ...*preached the gospel.* Declared, announced, gave good news. evangelized. *Gospel:* Good news of Jesus death, burial and resurrection.

Acts 14:8 *impotent in his feet*, Without power. Having no use of feet.

... cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: crippled from the cradle.

Acts 14:9 Paul saw countenance...discerned spirit. Thirsty for truth.

Acts 14:10 *Loud voice, Mega*—exceeding loud *Stand upright on thy feet.* Get up! Stand to your feet now. *And he leaped and walked.* Immediate! Powerful.

Acts 14:11 People used to seeing supernatural from Satan, not from God..

...gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.. only way explain it ... attributing power of these men to their gods. Believed that gods appear in human form.

Acts 14:12 ...*called Barnabas, Jupiter;* Zeus. Supreme power of universe

Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. Jupiter an aged old man, large, noble, and full of splendor and glory.

Mercury--son of Jupiter and Maia ...young, light, and active. Eloquent in speech and powerful in delivery.

Acts 14:13 *priest of Jupiter:* worship leader for Jupiter ... *which was before their city,* As entered city ...see statues to deities by gates. Lystra under authority and protection of Jupiter **Oxen:** common to bring two oxen or bullocks to be offered to Jupiter and Mercury. **Garlands:** animals to be sacrificed generally covered with ribbons and stings and wreaths of flowers.

unto the gates, where images or temple of gods. *and would have done sacrifice with the people.* Since Paul and Barnabas were Jupiter and Mercury ...

Acts 14:14-19 ... *and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.*

So What?

- Importance of preaching
- Manifestation of power of God
- Will be persecution
- Manifestation of boldness
- Truth divides
- May be a time to move on
- Religious people can be fickle